

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-31 and 33-70 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4, 6-25, 28-31 and 33-70 stand rejected.

Claims 26 and 27 stand objected.

Claim Objections

Claims 26 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants assert that these claims are patentable due to their dependence upon allowable claim 27. If necessary, Applicants will rewrite these claims in independent form at a later time.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-28, 30, 33-37, 39-44, 46, 48, 51-55, 57-62 and 64-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Request for Comments 2866: RADIUS Accounting” (hereinafter referred to as “RFC 2866”) in view of Hundscheidt, et al., European Patent Application Publication No., EP 1 014 619 A1 (hereinafter referred to as “Hundscheidt”).

The cited art does not teach or suggest “the off-load server is configured to include the session identifier in a second request sent to the AAA module,” as recited in claim 1. The Final Office Action mailed April 6, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as “FOA”) equates the Mobile Services Switching Center (MSC) taught in Hundscheidt with the “off-load server” recited in claim 1. As noted in the previous response, the cited portions of Hundscheidt (both alone and in combination with RFC 2866) fails to teach or suggest that the MSC includes a “session identifier in a second request sent to the AAA module.” In particular, the MSC appears to be unable to communicate with the RADIUS server; instead, the MSC relies upon an access server to forward the session identifier to the MSC. *See, e.g.*, Hundscheidt, paragraph 35. There is no suggestion that the MSC be able to communicate with the RADIUS server, let alone any suggestion that the

MSC be able to include the session identifier in a request sent to an AAA module as recited in claim 1. RFC 2866 also fails to teach or suggest such a feature of an off-load server. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the cited art fails to teach or suggest claim 1.

In response to the above argument, the Examiner cites paragraphs 39, 40, and 49 as well as paragraphs 22, 32, and 43 of Hundscheidt as “disclos[ing] the limitations as claimed.” FOA, p. 2. Paragraph 39 describes how the MSC can generate a network call reference, which the MSC then forwards to the access server. Paragraph 40 then describes how the access server, not the MSC, can include the network call reference in an Accounting Request message that the access server then sends to the RADIUS server. Accordingly, paragraphs 39-40 do not teach or suggest an off-load server that can include a session identifier in a request sent to an AAA module.

Paragraph 49 of Hundscheidt describes call re-establishment. Throughout paragraph 49, all communication with the RADIUS server is handled by an access server, and that access server in turn communicates with the MSC. Thus, this paragraph does not teach or suggest an off-load server that can include a session identifier in a request sent to an AAA module.

Paragraph 22 describes how a call data record with the session identifier of the MSC can be sent to a billing center. This paragraph (especially in combination with the other cited portions of Hundscheidt, which emphasize that communication with the RADIUS server is always handled by an access server) also clearly does not teach or suggest an off-load server that can include a session identifier in a request sent to an AAA module.

Paragraph 32 describes how an MSC can have an integrated access server. However, this does not mean that the MSC itself can communicate with a RADIUS server; instead, the MSC communicates with the integrated access server via an internal interface, and the access server communicates with the RADIUS server. For example, as noted in paragraph 43, if the MSC and the access server are combined, the access server sends the session identifier to the MSC via such an internal interface. Only the access server has the ability to send Accounting Request messages to and to receive Accounting Response messages from a RADIUS server. Thus, in Hundscheidt, the MSC simply cannot communicate with a RADIUS server. Instead, the MSC communicates with an internal or external access server, and that access server in turn communicates with a RADIUS server.

Applicants note that even if the combination of an MSC and an access server is equated with the “off-load server” of claim 1, the cited art still does not teach or suggest claim 1. In claim 1, the off-load server is configured to include the session identifier in a second request sent to the AAA module. This set of features, including the first request and the second request, is not taught or suggested by either Hundscheidt or the combination of Hundscheidt and RFC 2866.

For example, in paragraph 49, Hundscheidt teaches that a session identifier used in a previous call can be sent from a RADIUS server to an access server that is integrated with an MSC. The access server then forwards the session identifier to the MSC, and the MSC stores the received session identifier in the call data record, which can later be sent to a billing center. Hundscheidt, paragraph 49. While this describes how the session identifier can be sent from the RADIUS server to the MSC via the access server, the cited art neither teaches nor suggests that the combined MSC / access server then include the session identifier in a second request sent to the AAA module. Accordingly, the cited art neither teaches nor suggests “the off-load server is configured to include the session identifier in a second request sent to the AAA module,” as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, the cited art would not be expected to teach such a feature. In the scenario described in paragraph 49 of Hundscheidt, once the MSC has received the session identifier from the RADIUS server via the access server, there is no need for further communications between the access server and the RADIUS server (e.g., if another call re-establishment takes place involving that same access server, there is no need to contact the RADIUS server again because the access server has already established a PPP session, as described in paragraph 46 of Hundscheidt). Thus, there is no need for any communication corresponding to the “second request” recited in claim 1. RFC 2866 is also silent regarding the need for or desirability of such a feature.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, as are dependent claims 3, and 6-9. Claims 10, 12-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-28, 30, 33-37, 39-44, 46, 48, 51-55, 57-62 and 64-70 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.

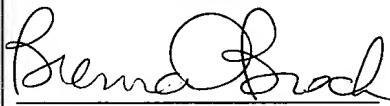
Claims 2, 4-5, 11, 18, 22, 25, 29, 31, 38, 45, 47, 49, 50, 56 and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over RFC 2866 and Hundscheidt, and further in view of

"Request for Comments 2867: RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support" (RFC 2867). These claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the foregoing reasons provided above with respect to claims 1, 10, 19, 23, 28, 37, 46, 55, and 68.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5087.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 6, 2006.


Brenna A. Brock
Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature
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Respectfully submitted,



Brenna A. Brock
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 48,509
(512) 439-5087 [Phone]
(512) 439-5099 [Fax]